TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE

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AGES 13+

BATMAN™ HUSH

BATMAN THE SILENCED WILL BE HEARD!

JOHNSON • SOY • PLASCENCIA

TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE

BATMAN HUSH

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BATMAN CREATED BY **BOB KANE** WITH **BILL FINGER**

THE DARK MULTIVERSE.

A GROTESQUE REFLECTION OF THE MULTIVERSE ABOVE.

AN INFINITE TAPESTRY OF BROKEN MIRRORS, MANY OF THEM IDENTICAL TO THEIR BETTER SELVES BUT FOR A SINGLE TRAGIC DECISION...

...AND I, TEMPUS FUGINAUT, PROTECTING EACH UNIVERSE FROM THE OTHERS.

IN EVERY ONE, OF GREAT INTEREST IS THE PLANET EARTH: A WORLD OF MIGHTY HEROES AND INCALCULABLE THREATS.

AND WITHIN THIS WORLD...

"...GOTHAM.

"IN MOST GOTHAMS, A CHILD NAMED BRUCE WAYNE WITNESSES A GREAT INJUSTICE AND BECOMES THE DARK KNIGHT OF HIS CITY.

"ENEMIES RISE TO CHALLENGE HIM...

"...INCLUDING ONE FROM HIS OWN PAST, HIS OLDEST FRIEND, THOMAS ELLIOT, WHO GROWS IN RESENTMENT, AMBITION, AND MALICE...

"...WHO TAKES THE NAME HUSH AND PITS BATMAN'S FOES, AND EVEN HIS ALLIES, AGAINST HIM.

"BUT IN ONE GOTHAM, BRUCE WAYNE AND THOMAS ELLIOT ARE NOT JUST FRIENDS, BUT SOMETHING AKIN TO BROTHERS..."

"...AND IN THIS GOTHAM, THE WAYNES ARE NOT ALONE THAT NIGHT IN THE ALLEY.

NOW SHOWING THE MARK OF ZORRO

"IN THIS GOTHAM, THE MURDER OF THOMAS AND MARTHA WAYNE IS WITNESSED BY THE ELLIOTS AS WELL.

"IT IS THEY WHO TAKE BRUCE IN, NOT ALFRED PENNYWORTH...

"...THOUGH THEY LACK THE MEANS TO HELP HIM.

"IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOW, THOMAS ELLIOT IS LEFT TO WATCH HELPLESSLY AS HIS CLOSEST FRIEND DESCENDS INTO MADNESS.

"THAT NIGHT IN PARK ROW TRANSFORMS NOT JUST BRUCE'S AND THOMAS'S LIVES..."

"...BUT ALL OF GOTHAM FOREVER."

WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S EPISODE OF *GOTHAM GLITTERATI!*

TONIGHT WE GIVE YOU AN *ALL-ACCESS PASS* TO THE GRAND-OPENING GALA OF THE *OMNICENTER,* THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE ICONIC GOTHAM SKYLINE!

JUST ARRIVING ARE THE YOUNG PRESIDENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTOR *REDLINE,* DANGEROUS BAD BOY OF THE GOTHAM CLUB SCENE *JASON TODD,* AND LATEST GAL PAL *DINAH DRAKE!*

I SEE THE CHARISMATIC AND NEWLY SINGLE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GOTHAM, *HARVEY DENT!*

REPRESENTING GOTHAM'S *FOUNDING FAMILIES* IS ENTREPRENEUR AND PHILANTHROPIST *OSWALD COBBLEPOT...*

...AND OF COURSE, THE *KING AND QUEEN* OF TONIGHT'S FESTIVITIES... GOTHAM'S *FIRST FAMILY...*

...GOTHAM SENATOR AND WAYNE INDUSTRIES CEO ***THOMAS ELLIOT*** AND THE LOVELY ***TALIA!***

AS EVER, THIS IS A COUPLE PEOPLE ***LOVE*** TO LOOK AT.

TALIA PUTS THE REST OF US TO SHAME ***AS USUAL*** WITH HER GODDESS FIGURE AND *DAVID KOMA* GOWN, AND THOMAS CUTS A DASHING FIGURE IN HIS SIGNATURE *TOM FORD.*

SENATOR ELLIOT! ANY TRUTH TO THE RUMORS OF A ***PRESIDENTIAL RUN*** NEXT YEAR?

PRESIDENT MARCH IS DOING A GREAT JOB, AND THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT NEED ME FOCUSED ON ***THEIR*** NEEDS.

AS DO THE FOLKS AT ***WAYNE INDUSTRIES.***

THAT'S NOT A NO, SENATOR!

TAKE IT HOWEVER YOU WANT. BUT LIKE I SAID, I'M HAPPY WHERE I--

BUZZ! BUZZ!

I JUST GOT A TEXT FROM MY DOCTOR FRIEND. I NEED TO SLIP OUT.

YOU ARE NEEDED ***HERE.***

I'LL COME BACK IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

DON'T LET THAT PRETTY-BOY PSYCHOPATH TODD ANYWHERE NEAR YOU.

MUST I REMIND YOU WHO PUT YOU WHERE YOU ARE?

IT WOULD BE SUCH A BOTHER FOR THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS TO GROOM ***ANOTHER*** SENATOR.

AS SO OFTEN HAPPENS, IT SEEMS SENATOR ELLIOT IS BEING CALLED AWAY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF GOTHAM!

"THE ***INDEPENDENT CITY-STATE*** OF GOTHAM TRULY NEVER SLEEPS..."

"...AND I KNOW HER CITIZENS ARE GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS DO FOR THEM!

"EVEN AFTER ALL THE TRIALS GOTHAM HAS BEEN THROUGH OVER THE YEARS...

"...AND ITS HARD-WON CLIMB TO INDEPENDENCE AND GREATNESS ON THE WORLD STAGE...

"...STILL IT REMAINS A BEACON OF PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND TREND SETTING LIFESTYLES.

"KEEP YOUR DEVICES LOCKED ON ***GOTHAM STATE MEDIA*** FOR MORE ON THE OMNICENTER'S GRAND-OPENING GALA!"

I BELIEVE IN GOTHAM CITY

SAVE GOTHAM!

SAVE GOTHAM FROM THE GSF

GSF

VVSSSSSSSH

GSF

DR. CRANE.

SENATOR. THANK YOU FOR HELPING US EXPEDITE THE COMPULSORY LEGAL RITUALS.

WHEN DID YOU FIND...?

AT BED CHECK, THREE HOURS TWENTY AGO. GOTHAM SECURITY FORCES WERE ALREADY HERE, INVESTIGATING... OTHER INCIDENTS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "*OTHER* INCIDENTS"?

NOTHING OF CONSEQUENCE. A FEW PROBLEMATIC PATIENTS HAVE EXPIRED IN THEIR SLEEP RECENTLY.

STILL, ONE OF THE DEATHS WAS...*DIFFICULT* TO EXPLAIN.

DOCTOR, SINCE I ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY FUND THIS FACILITY, I'D LIKE TO BE KEPT MORE IN THE LOOP.

I ASSUMED YOUR INTEREST IN THIS INSTITUTION BEGAN AND ENDED WITH *MY* WORK, SENATOR. YOU'RE WELCOME TO TAKE MY SEAT AT ALL STAFF MEETINGS GOING FORWARD.

♫ *HUSH,* LITTLE BABE, LEST YOU CALL DOWN... ♫

...THE BLOODY BAT OF GOTHAM TOWN!

HE LURKS ABOVE, DESIRING OF A CORPSE TO PLANT BENEATH THE GROUND! HEE! HEE HEE!

HE KNOWS YOUR HEART, YOUR BLACKEST DEED, AND HUNTS THEM DOWN WHERE'ER THEY LEAD...

WHAT'S THAT SONG ***TETCH*** IS SINGING?

⇒SIGH⇐ SOME TIRESOME LITTLE RHYME HE MADE UP ABOUT ***ARKHAM'S DEVIL.***

"ARKHAM'S DEVIL"?

SOMETHING FROM ***AMADEUS ARKHAM'S*** JOURNALS DURING HIS OCCULT OBSESSION. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN A ***BAT-DEMON*** HERE GENERATIONS AGO.

HE WROTE THAT IT PASSED THROUGH WALLS AND DOORS AT NIGHT, SILENT AS A SHADOW, KILLING PATIENTS. A FEW HAVE RECENTLY CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN IT.

THE OTHER DEATHS YOU MENTIONED...DID THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH--?

NO, SENATOR, PLEASE. I ASSURE YOU...

MORGUE

...BRUCE WAYNE'S DEATH WAS A SIMPLE ACCIDENT.

IT'S TRUE, THEN. BRUCE IS REALLY GONE.

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO FOR NEXT OF KIN. NOW THAT YOU'VE OFFICIALLY IDENTIFIED THE BODY, I'LL TIDY UP THE ***FORMALITIES*** HERE.

HOW DID HE...?

ASPHYXIATION. IT LOOKS AS IF HE ROLLED ONTO HIS FACE AND SMOTHERED HIMSELF IN THE NIGHT.

AS YOU KNOW, HE'S BEEN PRACTICALLY ***UNRESPONSIVE*** FOR YEARS. DIDN'T HAVE THE WIT LEFT TO TURN HIMSELF OVER.

GOD. HE WAS SO...***CAPABLE*** ONCE.

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING CALLOUS, THIS IS QUITE A ***FORTUNATE*** TURN FOR YOU. WAYNE INDUSTRIES IS OFFICIALLY ***YOURS*** NOW, YES?

IF I MAY BE SO BOLD...I OFTEN WONDERED WHY YOU DIDN'T SPEED THINGS ALONG YOURSELF.

KEEPING WAYNE A ***VEGETABLE*** WAS ONE THING. BUT I COULD HAVE TAKEN MORE... DECISIVE ACTION IF YOU'D ASKED.

NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING, MIND. HE WAS AN ***EXQUISITE*** TEST SUBJECT. NONE OF THE OTHERS LASTED HALF SO LONG.

I'LL NAME MY LATEST FEAR THERAPY PROCEDURE AFTER HIM. WITHOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT, AND THE WAIVERS YOU SO KINDLY PROVIDED...

DR. CRANE, DON'T TALK ABOUT OUR ARRANGEMENT EVER AGAIN.

OF COURSE.

I'LL SHOW MYSELF OUT. FEEL FREE TO STAY A MOMENT, TO SAY GOODBYE.

OR WHATEVER YOU PEOPLE DO.

BY THE WAY, THERE'S SOMETHING IN HIS ***HAND*** THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU. HE WAS HOLDING IT WHEN WE FOUND HIM, WHICH WAS ODD.

IT WAS NEVER IN HIS CELL BEFORE TODAY.

MARK OF ZORRO

I AM THE BAT OF ARKHAM HOME! YOUR SOULS BELONG TO ME ALONE!

IN GLOOM I WAIT, MY THIRST TO SATE ON MEALS OF STEAMING BLOOD AND BONE!

HEE HEE HEE!

GIVE IT A REST, JERVIS, WOULD YOU?

CAREFUL, DOC! FLOOR'S SLIPPERY.

=SIGH=

IS THERE NOT *SOME OTHER TIME* YOU COULD DO THIS SORT OF THING?

HAHAHA! YOU WANT ME TO MOP LATER THAN *THIS?* WHAT, LIKE TWO IN THE MORNING?

FOLKS'D THINK I WAS ONE OF *THE CRAZIES!*

POP

AHH! WHAT?!

NO WORRIES, DOC. WE GET ROLLING BLACKOUTS AT THIS HOUR SOMETIMES. I'LL GO GET THE EMERGENCY LIGHTS ON.

CLICK

CLICK

CLICK

THE--THE DOOR'S LOCKED. WHY IS THIS DOOR LOCKED?!

SIT TIGHT, EMERGENCY LIGHTS'LL BE ON IN A JIFFY!

WAIT! COME BACK! GET THIS DOOR OPEN!

HEE HEE HEE!

POP

HUSH, LITTLE BABE, AND GO TO SLEEP...

YAAAAAAAHHHH!

SHRRRRRIPPP

YEAAAAAUGGH... AAAGKK...

...AND MAY YOUR REST BE LONG AND DEEP...

...BUT SAY A PRAYER, AND BEST BEWARE...

SHLECCK

THRAKKK

...THE BLOODY BAT OF ARKHAM KEEP.

DID YOU DO WHAT YOU NEEDED TO DO BACK THERE, SENATOR?

I SUPPOSE SO.

JUST VISITING AN OLD...

...OLD...

...WHAT?

SOMETHING ON THE RADAR!

INCOMING!

BA WHOOOOM

WUUUUU

EVERYONE STRAP IN!

I CAN'T PULL OUT OF IT!

LOOK OUT, THERE'S PEOPLE DOWN--

RODELA

BOOOOOOM

CRUNNNNNNNNNK

WHO'S HURT? EVERYBODY STILL WITH US?

PILOT'S DEAD!

THIS IS THOMAS ELLIOT. ***CODE RED EXTRACTION.*** TWO WAYNE UNITS ON MY LOCATION ***IMMEDIATELY.***

THEY'RE COMING! GET THE SENATOR OUT!

GSF

THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO!

THAT'S ***THOMAS ELLIOT'S SHIP!*** ONE OF THE ***ARCHITECTS*** OF OUR CORRUPT, BROKEN CITY!

THE ONES WHO MURDERED ***MY FATHER,*** THE LAST GOOD COP IN GOTHAM!

OUTSIDERS!

AVENGE JIM GORDON, AND TAKE BACK YOUR CITY!

I'VE GOT THE FAR RIGHT ONE.

CENTER LEFT.

BRAKKAKAK BOOOOM

AGH...!

SHNK

BRAKAKAK

UNNNK!

HWOCK

NICE TO MEET YOU, SENATOR. BIG FAN.

SSSHUNK

THAT SHOULD BE EVERYBODY.

OOPS, MISSED ONE.

ON IT, CASS.

DON'T WORRY, SENATOR.

YOUR FELLOW EVIL OLIGARCHS WILL BE WITH YOU VERY SOON.

OH.

TIM, I'M...

THUNK

YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

YOU'RE A GRAY SON.

FWUMP

I'M THE GRAY SON.

SHFFF

WHAM

KNOWING THAT, IS THIS REALLY A FIGHT YOU WANT?

SOMEDAY?

DEFINITELY.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BOOOM

BRAKAKAKAKAK

WE SHOULD PROBABLY GET GOING, SENATOR.

RICHARD. I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE *YOU* HERE.

PRESIDENT MARCH SENT ME TO LOOK AFTER YOU PERSONALLY. THIS WASN'T THE ONLY ATTACK. ATTORNEY GENERAL ***DENT*** AND GSF CAPTAIN ***FLASS*** ARE MISSING.

OLD NEWS CLIPPINGS ABOUT THE ***WAYNE MURDERS*** WERE FOUND AT BOTH OF THEIR HOMES.

WHY IS THAT?

AT LAST. BARBARA GORDON.

THE *ORACLE* HERSELF.

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU, *ZOMBIE FASCIST.*

I'M *IMPRESSED.* THE OUTSIDERS REALLY STEPPED UP THEIR GAME TONIGHT.

MY PEOPLE DIDN'T BRING DOWN THAT AIRSHIP.

THE ATTACKS ON ELLIOT AND FLASS I UNDERSTAND. BUT WHY *DENT?* AND WHY BOTHER WITH THE NEWS CLIPPINGS?

I SAID, I HAVE...

...NEWS CLIPPINGS?

YOUR LITTLE REFERENCES TO A FAMILY MUGGING TWENTY-ODD YEARS AGO. THE CRIME SCENES ALL HAD THEM.

AH. THE WAYNE MURDERS.

THIS IS STARTING TO MAKE A LOT MORE SENSE.

OKAY, RICHARD. BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE WHERE THIS GOES, HERE'S ONE FOR FREE.

I'M GUESSING SENATOR ELLIOT'S AIRSHIP WAS SHOT DOWN BY A LEXCORP SURFACE-TO-AIR R.I.M.-72 RAPTOR. RIGHT?

THERE AREN'T ANY OF THOSE IN NORTH AMERICA...WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ***SANTA PRISCA.***

SEVERAL SHIPPING CONTAINERS OF "STRUCTURE-GRADE LUMBER" FROM SANTA PRISCA ARRIVED IN GOTHAM HARBOR LAST WEEK.

BUT THE RECIPIENT ISN'T A BUILDER. HE'S THE PREEMINENT ***DEFENSE CONTRACTOR*** IN GOTHAM.

THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO GET YOU BACK ON TRACK.

OH, AND, ***ELLIOT?*** DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT LITTLE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

I THINK YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE MUCH ***BIGGER*** PROBLEMS.

"I NEVER LIKED OLD TOWN."

EVERYONE LOOKS AT YOU LIKE THEY'RE...HUNGRY, OR SOMETHING.

I'M SURPRISED YOU'VE EVEN BEEN HERE BEFORE.

BUT ORACLE'S RIGHT. ***JASON TODD*** HAS ACCESS TO THE KIND OF WEAPONS THAT TOOK DOWN YOUR AIRSHIP.

IF THIS SEARCH TURNS UP SOMETHING, I WANT YOU THERE FOR THE QUESTIONING.

IT MAKES SENSE THAT IT WOULD BE HIM. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO MOVE UP THE LEADER-BOARDS IN GOTHAM FOR A LONG TIME.

WELL, IF IT ***WAS*** HIM, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM AFTER TONIGHT.

THE DRONES STAY OUTSIDE.

THAT'S NOT HOW THIS WORKS.

I'M ***RICHARD OF THE GRAY SONS,*** HERE REPRESENTING PRESIDENT MARCH. THIS IS SENATOR THOMAS ELLIOT.

WE'RE COMING IN, OUR DRONES TOO.

STAND ASIDE.

ELLIOT! MISSED YOU AT THE AFTER-PARTY.

AND GRAY SON NUMBER ONE HIMSELF. WOW.

JASON.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TWO OUT SO LATE?

A R.I.M.-72 RAPTOR GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILE. KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

SORRY, DICK, NOT MY BRAND. THOSE AREN'T ALLOWED IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

I RECENTLY LEARNED THAT.

AND YET, MY DRONES JUST TOOK A RADIATION SCAN OF THIS BUILDING SHOWING TWELVE LEXCORP ORDNANCE CONTAINERS TWO FLOORS BELOW US.

TWELVE CONTAINERS...WITH ELEVEN MISSILES INSIDE THEM.

YOU WEREN'T AT ANY "AFTER-PARTY," JASON. YOU LEFT THE OMNICENTER RIGHT AFTER I DID. AND I SAW YOU ON THAT ROOFTOP.

YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEARN THAT GOTHAM'S NOT OFTEN KIND TO REVOLUTIONARIES.

JASON TODD, UNDER MY AUTHORITY AS A GRAY SON OF THE INDEPENDENT CITY-STATE OF GOTHAM, I'M DETAINING YOU ON SUSPICION OF *TERRORIST ACTIVITY.*

CLICK

WHIRRRRRRRRRRR

IF YOU THINK THAT'S HOW IT WORKS IN OLD TOWN...

BEE-DEEP

...YOU'VE BEEN UP IN YOUR *IVORY ROOST* TOO LONG.

BEEP

WHIRRRRRRRRRRR

AND I'M SUPPOSED TO JUST *GO* WITH YOU? BECAUSE YOU SAY SO?

WAIT...I'VE SEEN SOME OF THESE MEN BEFORE. THEY'RE WITH THE *LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS!*

YOU DO *NOT* WANT TO PLAY IT THIS WAY, JASON.

THE OWLS HAD THEIR TIME AT THE TOP, DICK. THE *LEAGUE* IS ON THE WAY UP, AND THEY HAVE MY BACK. *TALIA* TOO.

SORRY, SENATOR.

CLICK

YOUR GIRL'S READY FOR A CHANGE OF SCENERY.

KSSSSH

GRENADE!

FWOOOOSHHHH

YAAAAUUUGH!

THWOCKK

AAAAGH! NO, PLEASE!

SOMETHING'S IN HERE WITH US!

CRUNCH

NO, WAIT! DON'T--

SHRIPPPPP

BRAKAKAKAKAKAK

LIGHT HIM UP!

OH GOD...
OH GOD!!!

WHAT THE HELL IS *THAT?!*

THAT'S WHO I SAW ON THAT ROOFTOP, JUST BEFORE MY AIRSHIP WENT DOWN.

DR. CRANE CALLED IT *ARKHAM'S DEVIL.*

GET OUT OF HERE! I'LL HANDLE THIS THING.

BUT I HAVE ***QUESTIONS*** FOR YOU WHEN THIS IS OVER, ELLIOT.

WHAM

HE SEEMS TOUGH.

SETTLE UP LATER?

BLAM BLAM BLAM

DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.

OBVIOUSLY.

WHOUFF!

BLAM

THOCK

THWIPPP

AAGH!

YOU THINK I'LL GO DOWN SO EASY?!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

COME ON, THEN!

TALIA!

WHY NOW, TALIA?

WHAT? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, THOMAS?

BRUCE WAYNE *DIED* TODAY. I'M ABOUT TO FULLY INHERIT WAYNE INDUSTRIES. WHY CHOOSE *TODAY* TO KILL ME?

I LEAD THE *LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS,* LOVE. I KILLED MY *OWN FATHER.*

IF I HAD DECIDED TO KILL *YOU,* WOULD I BOTHER TO HIDE IT?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED, BUT WE ARE SURROUNDED BY LEAGUE ASSASSINS. WE ARE QUITE SAFE HERE.

TELL THAT TO *JASON TODD.*

WHAT?

I HEARD HIM SCREAMING AS I ESCAPED HIS BUILDING. MOST OF *HIS* LEAGUE ASSASSINS WERE *DEAD* BY THEN.

THIS WAS *AFTER* HE ADMITTED TRYING TO KILL ME TONIGHT, WITH *YOUR BLESSING.*

WHY DOES JASON TODD HAVE YOUR PROTECTION, TALIA?

THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS HAS GRAND PLANS FOR GOTHAM, THOMAS. JASON HAS RESOURCES WE FIND USEFUL.

BUT THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY ATTEMPT ON YOUR LIFE.

WHEN WE CONTROL ENOUGH SENATORS TO ENSURE YOUR *SUCCESSION,* WE WILL REMOVE LINCOLN MARCH AND MAKE YOU *PRESIDENT* OF GOTHAM.

BUT IN CASE THERE ARE ANY CHALLENGERS, WE NEED TO ENSURE THE GSF AND THEIR ARMORIES BELONG TO US AS WELL. TODD WAS AN *INVESTMENT.*

WELL, I THINK YOU'VE LOST YOUR INVESTMENT TONIGHT.

IF YOU WANT TO MAINTAIN YOUR FOOTHOLD IN GOTHAM AND A PIECE OF MY *MULTI BILLION-DOLLAR COMPANY,* YOUR LITTLE *CULT* WOULD BE WELL SERVED KEEPING ME *ALI--*

MARK OF ZORRO

LOGITEK

...WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?

I HAVE NOT BEEN IN THIS ROOM ALL DAY.

WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?!

THE MARK OF ZORRO

YOU FORGET YOURSELF, THOMAS.

HE'S BEEN HERE! HE'S BEEN INSIDE MY *HOME!*

WHO, FOR GOD'S SAKE?

HE COULD BE ONE OF *YOUR* PEOPLE, FOR ALL WE KNOW.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE THAT THING COULD HAVE COME FROM.

"I'M GOING TO FIND ANSWERS."

DON'T BOTHER!

NO! ENTRY

WHO ARE YOU?

IS THERE SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE WAYNE MURDERS, THOMAS?

RICHARD. YOU'RE--

WHO IS HE, ELLIOT? WHY DOES HE CARE ABOUT THE WAYNES?

I...I DON'T--

DON'T LIE TO ME. THE ATTACKS, THE NEWS CLIPPINGS...WHOEVER HE IS, HE BLAMES YOU.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

HOW DID YOU FIND ME HERE, RICHARD?

I'M THE HEAD OF PRESIDENT MARCH'S SECURITY, THOMAS.

I'VE HAD A TRACKER ON YOU ALL NIGHT...

...AND A BUG AS WELL.

GET BACK.

FOR MONTHS, PRESIDENT MARCH HAS SUSPECTED YOU MIGHT BE A VULNERABILITY.

THAT THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS MIGHT MAKE A PLAY FOR THE WAYNE FORTUNE, AND THEN THE PRESIDENCY. NOW WE KNOW IT.

I'LL HANDLE IT. DON'T DO THIS, RICHARD.

IT'S DONE. TWO FLIGHTS OF GRAY SONS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO YOUR MANSION RIGHT NOW. WHEN YOU AND TALIA ARE DEAD, THE COURT WILL SEIZE THE WAYNE ESTATE.

THOMAS ELLIOT...

...THE COURT OF OWLS HAS SENTENCED YOU TO DIE.

GROOOAAAN

CRACK

KA-CRACK

CRASH

KRAK

KOOOOOOM

HUSH, LITTLE BABE, LEST YOU CALL DOWN THE BLOODY BAT OF GOTHAM TOWN, HE LURKS ABOVE, DESIRING OF A CORPSE TO PLANT BENEATH THE GROUND.

HE KNOWS YOUR HEART, YOUR BLACKEST DEED, AND FOLLOWS THEM WHERE'ER THEY LEAD.

WHERE'ER YOU GO, THE BAT WILL KNOW AND FIND YOU WITH THE DEVIL'S SPEED.

I KNOW YOU.

HELLO?

WHO'S THERE?

YOU WERE THE WAYNES' BUTLER, ***YEARS*** AGO. ARNOLD OR SOMETHING... ALBERT...AL. ALFRED.

I'M AFRAID YOU MADE A MISTAKE COMING HERE, MASTER THOMAS.

A TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE MISTAKE.

ALFRED? *YOU* DID ALL THIS?

ME, SIR? I'M JUST A HUMBLE MANSERVANT. I SERVE THE WAYNES, NOTHING MORE.

THE WAYNES ARE *DEAD,* ALFIE.

ARE THEY, MASTER THOMAS?

ARE THEY INDEED?

K-KEEP AWAY FROM ME!

BLAM BLAM

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID, TOMMY.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

YOUR FAMILY DRIVER...WHAT YOU PROMISED HIM TO KILL YOUR OWN PARENTS...AND HOW IT WENT WRONG.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHO ELSE WOULD I BE, TOMMY?

KA-CRACK

SCHRECK

YAAUUGGH!

EVERYONE'S DEAD BUT US.

THE WAYNES, IN THAT ALLEY...

OOOOF!

THE ELLIOTS, ON THAT ROAD A FEW YEARS LATER...

THE DRIVER, KILLED IN HIS CELL AWAITING TRIAL FOR ANOTHER CRIME...

EVEN THE DECENT COP WHO TOOK THE CALL.

YOU'RE **NOT BRUCE!**

WHEN YOUR PARENTS TOOK ME IN, YOUR MOTHER SAID "THE BOYS WILL FINALLY GET TO BE REAL BROTHERS."

HOW DR. CRANE LAUGHED WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT STORY.

THE IDEA THAT I WAS EVER LIKE A BROTHER TO YOU...

...WHO TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME.

YOU DIED!

I SAW YOUR BODY!

YOU WEREN'T MY ONLY VISITOR IN ARKHAM, TOMMY.

ALFRED WAS ALWAYS WITH ME...

"...AND SO WAS THE 'HANDYMAN' WE PLANTED AT ARKHAM, JACK NAPIER.

"WHEN I WAS READY, NAPIER GAVE ME THE DRUGS--AND THE AUTOPSY SCARS--THAT I USED TO FAKE MY DEATH AND FINALLY ESCAPE THAT PLACE.

WITH ALFRED'S HELP, I LEARNED WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PARENTS *YEARS* AGO.

AND *NAPIER* GOT ME ACCESS TO PEOPLE IN ARKHAM WHO COULD HELP ME AVENGE THEM.

"PEOPLE LIKE AMADEUS ARKHAM, WHO TAUGHT ME CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY AND HOW TO FAKE A WORSENING PSYCHOSIS.

"DISGRACED SPY NICK MASON, WHO TAUGHT ME DISGUISE, LOCKPICKING, AND ALL THINGS SPYCRAFT.

"LEGENDARY MARTIAL ARTIST-TURNED-MURDERER DELORES MADDIGAN, WHO SHOWED ME EVERYTHING SHE KNEW ABOUT UNARMED COMBAT.

"CASEY CALLAHAN, THE NOTED CAT BURGLAR AND ESCAPE ARTIST WHO ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISON MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED TIMES.

"MOB ASSASSIN SAL 'BUCKETS' BARRUSCO, WHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO KILL TO LEAVE A MESSAGE, OR WITHOUT LEAVING A TRACE.

"AND GIDEON CROWE, THE INFAMOUS SCOTLAND YARD DETECTIVE TURNED SERIAL KILLER, WHO TAUGHT ME THE ART OF DETECTION, SURVEILLANCE, POISON, AND SO, SO MUCH MORE.

FOR *YEARS* I'VE WATCHED YOU AND THE OTHERS PICK AT GOTHAM'S CORPSE.

TIME TO SCATTER THE VULTURES NOW.

WE...WE WILL, BRUCE. WE CAN FIX THINGS, *TOGETHER.*

I'M *POWERFUL* NOW. I'M IN A POSITION TO HELP YOU, TO MAKE *REAL CHANGE* IN GOTHAM.

NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK, WE CAN TAKE BACK THE CITY...FROM THE OWLS, THE MOB, THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS. WE'LL START *TODAY.* WE CAN--

"DAY," TOMMY?

I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT THAT IS.

YOU WILL, TOO.

BIG NEWS ON TODAY'S EPISODE OF **GOTHAM GLITTERATI!**

IN A SHOCKING TWIST FOLLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SENATOR THOMAS ELLIOT, OWNERSHIP OF **WAYNE INDUSTRIES** HAS PASSED TO A FORMER WAYNE FAMILY SERVANT, **ALFRED PENNYWORTH!**

A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH OF MR. PENNYWORTH WAS NOT AVAILABLE, AND HIS PLACE OF RESIDENCE IS UNKNOWN.

AS SOON AS WE TRACK DOWN THIS ELUSIVE BILLIONAIRE, YOU CAN COUNT ON MEETING HIM RIGHT HERE ON **GOTHAM GLITTERATI!**

IN OTHER **BOMBSHELL** NEWS, THE BEAUTIFUL **TALIA** HAS BEEN SEEN ON THE ARM OF NONE OTHER THAN GOTHAM PRESIDENT **LINCOLN MARCH!**

SOME FAST WORK PERHAPS, BUT WITH A COUPLE AS BEAUTIFUL, SUCCESSFUL, AND ELIGIBLE AS THESE TWO, WHO CAN JUDGE?

MANY OF US THOUGHT TALIA MIGHT SEEK OUT THE AFFECTIONS OF GORGEOUS GOTHAMITE **JASON TODD,** BUT SADLY THE RASH OF DISAPPEARANCES AMONG THE GOTHAM ELITE HAS TAKEN MR. TODD AS WELL.

WHEREVER THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS OF OUR BELOVED CITY-STATE HAVE GONE...

JUSTICE FOR JIM GORDON!

GSF

"...WE SAY A PRAYER FOR THEIR SAFE AND SPEEDY RETURN."

NOW *HUSH*, LITTLE BABE, AND GO TO SLEEP, AND MAY YOUR REST BE LONG AND DEEP...

"BUT SAY A PRAYER, AND BEST BEWARE..."

♫"...THE BLOODY BAT OF ARKHAM KEEP."♫

SO IS WRITTEN THE TRAGEDY OF BATMAN THE SILENCED: A MAD, FACELESS APPARITION BORN OF THE HOUSES OF WAYNE, ELLIOT, AND ARKHAM.

IN ALL THE WORLDS OF THE DARK MULTIVERSE, FEW INDEED ARE THOSE IN WHICH BRUCE WAYNE DOES NOT TAKE UP THE MANTLE OF THE BATMAN.

EVEN A LIFETIME LOCKED AWAY, TORMENTED, AND BROKEN BY MADNESS CANNOT PREVENT IT.

BUT THIS BATMAN HAS NO JIM GORDON FOR AN ALLY...NO ROBIN...NO POLICE TO AID HIM.

ONLY HIS POOR, MAD SERVANTS...

...AND THE MANY LESSONS LEARNED IN THE HALLS OF ARKHAM.

NEXT: FLASHPOINT

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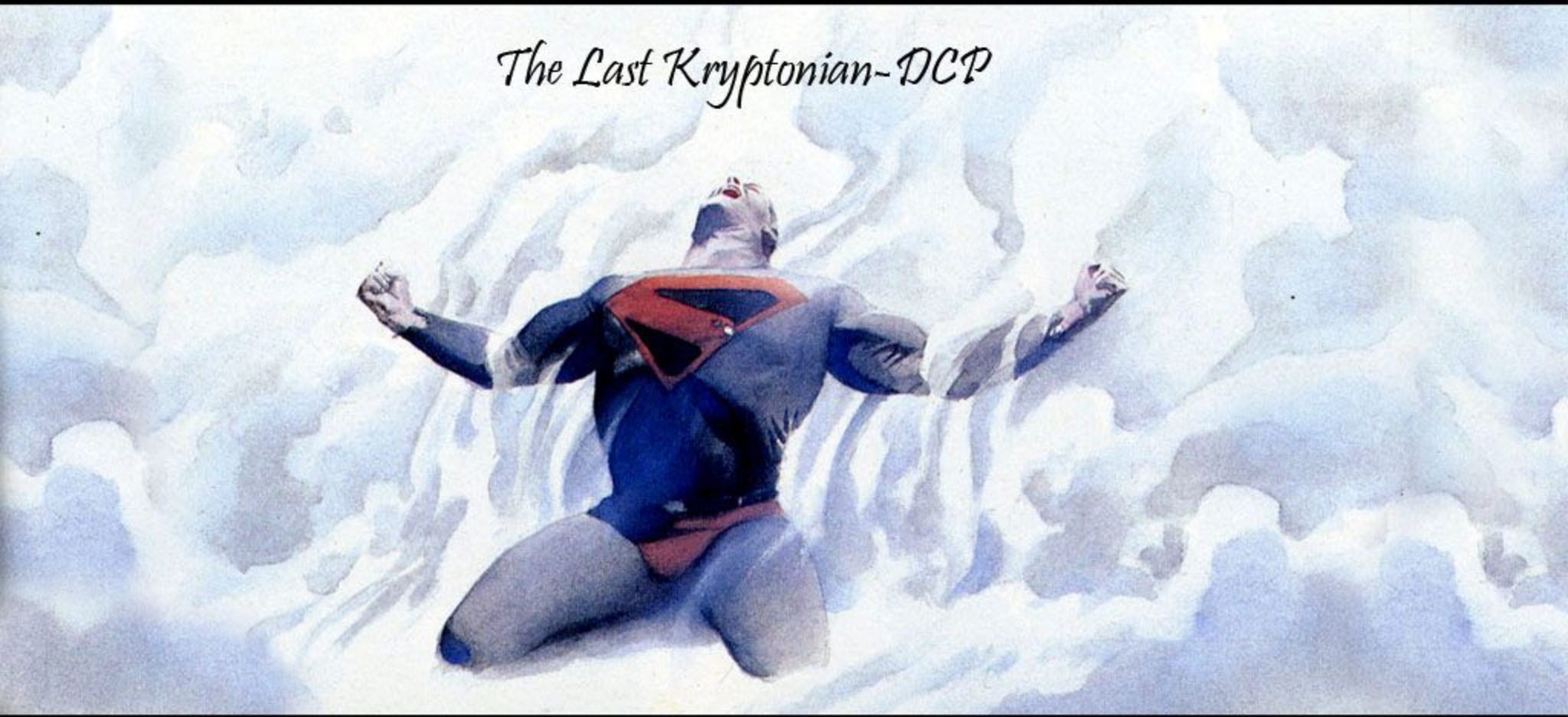
BUT US."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